

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Amended) A specimen processing system comprising:

a plurality of specimen processing units each having flat sides and a specimen operating surface and operated singly, the specimen processing units having at least a same depth dimension, and the specimen operating surfaces of the specimen processing units having a same height dimension;

coupling means for closely coupling right and left sides of the specimen processing units to each other; and

a single driving control unit for controlling a related operation of all of the specimen processing units coupled to each other by the coupling means and a single operation of a designated one of the specimen processing units;

each said specimen processing unit including:

a unit housing having right and left sides parallel to each other, said specimen operating surface being perpendicular to the right and left sides of said unit housing, parallel to a ground surface, and located at a set height above the ground surface;

a specimen carry-in/carry-out lane formed on said specimen operating surface and having a predetermined lane structure, one end of the specimen carry-in/carry-out lane facing at least one of the right and left sides; and

a unit body for processing a specimen carried into the unit housing through the specimen carry-in/carry-out lane, the processed specimen being carried out through the specimen carry-in/carry-out lane.

3. (Currently amended) The specimen processing system according to claim 2, wherein the unit housing further has front and back sides parallel to each other and perpendicular to the right and left sides.

4. (Original) The specimen processing system according to claim 1, wherein the coupling means is a free-coupling/separation type coupling mechanism including at least one of a mechanical coupling mechanism and a magnetic coupling mechanism.

5. (Original) The specimen processing system according to claim 1, wherein the single driving control unit includes a pneumatic driving section and a control section and is coupled to one of the plurality of specimen processing units.